

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-58.

Please add new claims 59-87 to read as follows:

59. (New) A system for transmitting electronic data between a terrestrial base station and a plurality of passenger computer terminals coupled to a network on an aircraft, the system comprising:

a storage device to store e-mail messages for the plurality of passenger computer terminals; and

a server secured to the aircraft and coupled to the storage device and to the plurality of passenger computer terminals via the network, wherein the server and storage device are configured to collect and store a plurality of e-mail messages from the plurality of passenger computer terminals irrespective of whether or not communication bandwidth is available, the server being further configured to establish an intermittent wireless link with the base station to transmit the plurality of stored e-mail messages as a group over the link to the base station when the aircraft is in flight and when the server determines to initiate the transmission.

60. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the base station stores electronic data to be transmitted from the base station to the server, and the server stores electronic data to be transmitted from the server to the base station, wherein the server and base station communicate with each other intermittently, and wherein the server determines when to transmit the stored data on the basis of the amount of time the aircraft has been in flight or on the basis of an amount of data stored.

61. (New) The system of claim 60 wherein the base station is configured to generate a trigger signal between the base station and the server when a predetermined amount of data has been stored by the base station, to initiate transmitting of the stored data to the server.

62. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the base station selectively communicates with an Internet service provider (ISP) or corporate private network to collect data and provide it to the passenger computer terminals via the server.

63. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the server notifies the base station of pending e-mail messages not received by a computer terminal aboard the aircraft, wherein the computer terminal has an e-mail address, and wherein the base station is configured to store and resend, to the e-mail address, the pending e-mail messages after the aircraft arrives at a destination.

64. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the server notifies the base station of e-mail messages, from a mail server, that have been received by the computer terminal aboard the aircraft, wherein the computer terminal has an e-mail address, and wherein the base station is configured to contact the mail server for deletion of the e-mail messages that have been received by the computer terminal.

65. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the server and storage device store e-mail messages transmitted to the aircraft over the wireless link for at least one of the plurality of passengers, despite the one passenger's computer terminal not being logged into the server over the network.

66. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the terminal receives from the base station a first signal indicative of a type of attachment associated with an e-mail message, and wherein the terminal is configured to transmit to the base station a second signal in response to the first signal requesting that the attachment be transmitted from the base station to the server over the wireless link.

67. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the server receives from the base station a summary of an attachment associated with an e-mail message and

provides a hypertext link for accessing the attachment by a passenger, and wherein the server is configured to receive the attachment over the wireless link if the passenger provides a payment signal.

68. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the server receives from the base station a summary of an attachment and a hypertext link for sending the attachment by a passenger, and wherein the server is configured to send the attachment over the wireless link to the base station if the passenger provides an authorization signal.

69. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the server is configured to monitor a status of a scheduled flight of the aircraft including a beginning and end of the flight, if the flight is cancelled, or if the flight is held away from a gate for an extended period of time, and wherein the server is configured to communicate with the base station for e-mail message transfer based on the flight status of the aircraft.

70. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the server provides a domain name server and automatically receives, and transmits to the base station, mail server addresses, user id's and passwords, including applicable firewall access information, from the plurality of passenger computer terminals when each passenger attempts to retrieve e-mail.

71. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the storage device includes a plurality of web pages, and wherein the server provides a domain name server that records passenger requested URLs and provides requested URLs to the base station for updating the plurality of web pages in the database.

72. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the server is configured to permit communications between the plurality of passenger computer terminals aboard the aircraft via the network.

73. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the storage device includes a plurality of web pages, wherein the plurality of web pages lack links to other web pages not stored in the database, and wherein the server and database provide search engine functions to permit the plurality of passenger computer terminals to search and access desired web pages in the plurality of web pages.

74. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the storage device includes a plurality of web pages, and wherein the server and storage device load and update the plurality of web pages under differential management proxy cache operations to load a predetermined number of levels from selected web sites, and to update changes in web page code without reloading each web page.

75. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the storage device includes a plurality of web pages, and wherein the server and storage device update predetermined data in the plurality of web pages via the wireless link, wherein the predetermined data includes share prices, weather updates or news flashes.

76. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the storage device includes a plurality of web pages, and wherein web pages in the storage device are updated by connection with a data loader at the base station, by physical replacement of the storage device, remotely by a wired link, or remotely by the wireless link.

77. (New) A method for transmitting electronic data between a plurality of passenger computer terminals on an aircraft and a terrestrial base station, the method comprising:

collecting and storing a plurality of e-mail messages for the plurality of passenger computer terminals at the base station;

establishing an intermittent wireless link with the base station; and

transmitting the plurality of e-mail messages as a group from the base station to the aircraft over the link between an airborne database and the base station.

78. (New) A method according to claim 77 wherein establishing includes identifying a desired link from a plurality of links based on the availability of each link, the relative cost of each link, or the relative speed of each link.

79. (New) A method according to claim 77 wherein establishing includes identifying a desired base station from a plurality of base stations based on a available remaining capacity of the base stations or a least expensive communication route available by the base stations.

80. (New) The method of claim 77 wherein storing includes storing store e-mail messages transmitted to the aircraft over the wireless link for at least one of the plurality of passengers, despite the one passenger's computer terminal not being logged on.

81. (New) The method of claim 77, further comprises dynamically assigning IP addresses to at least some of the plurality of passenger computer terminals for accessing and exchanging e-mail over an Ethernet network, wherein the at least some passenger computer terminals have static IP addresses and wherein Ethernet network properties of the at least some passenger computer terminals remain unchanged.

82. (New) The method of claim 77, further comprising automatically collecting from each passenger and transmitting to the base station, mail server

addresses, user id's and passwords and firewall access information from the plurality of passenger computer terminals when each passenger attempts to retrieve e-mail.

83. (New) The method of claim 77, further comprising automatically collecting from each passenger e-mail from a mail server logically positioned behind a firewall security measure, without the need for the passenger computer terminal being available.

84. (New) A method for transmitting electronic data between a plurality of passenger computer terminals on an aircraft and a terrestrial base station, the method comprising:

collecting and storing a plurality of e-mail messages from the plurality of passenger computer terminals at an airborne database irrespective of whether or not communication bandwidth is available;

establishing an intermittent wireless link with the base station; and

transmitting the plurality of stored e-mail messages as a group over the link from the airborne database to a base station.

85. (New) The method of claim 84 wherein the base station transmits at least one of the plurality of e-mail messages to a destination mail server for at least one of the plurality of passengers, despite the one passenger's computer terminal not being logged on.

86. (New) The method of claim 84, further comprises dynamically assigning IP addresses to at least some of the plurality of passenger computer terminals for accessing and exchanging e-mail over an Ethernet network.

87. (New) The method of claim 84, further comprising automatically collecting from each passenger e-mail from a mail server logically positioned behind a firewall security measure.